

Appl. No. : 09/760,129  
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#### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A distinction can be made between signal type context and node context. The signal type context of a node  $v$  includes the input and output signal types of  $v$ . The signal type context does not change when transformations are applied in the ~~neighbourhood~~neighborhood of  $v$ . The node context of a node  $v$  consists of the nodes in the ~~neighbourhood~~neighborhood of  $v$ . The node context does change when transformations are applied in the ~~neighbourhood~~neighborhood of  $v$ . As ~~was~~is used below, a context-dependent cost (function) is defined as a cost (function) that depends on the node context. Context-dependent or not, each cost (function) depends on the signal type context[:].